Department has welcomed the suggestion of putting more check gates.

Air Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

1604. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Madras Calcutta and Bombay are affected by serious air pollution;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the growing pollution; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to eliminate the hazards of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Venicular and industrial emissions are the main causes of pollution in cities. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, has carried out ambient air quality monitoring in ten major cities of India viz. Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Cochin, Madras and Nagpur in collaboration with Central Pollution Control Board. According to the air quality survey, the levels of sulphurdioxide & nitrogen oxides in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay are within the prescribed limits, while the level of suspended particulate matter in these cities are on the higher side, which is due to the natural dusty conditions and increasing density of vehicular traffic.

(c) The steps taken to eliminate the hazards of pollution in these cities include the following:—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken againt the defaulting units.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the Stae Governments to comply with the effluents/ emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and phospho-gypsum.

(vii) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(viii) A draft notification notifying the mass emission standards for 1995 and indicative standards for 2000 for all vehicles has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ix) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel in Delhi and Bombay. This will arrest the increasing trend of nitorgen oxide in these cities.

Scheme to Chalk out Environmental Audit in Industries

1605. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been chalked out for conducting environmental audit in selected industries belonging to heavily polluting industrial

sector and training the personnel in the sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of industries located in Uttar Pradesh, which have been identified for that purpose and the details of the studies conducted in those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is a scheme to obtain environmental statements from units, including the 17 categories of heavily polluting sector, by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards as per the notification GSR-386(E) dated 22nd April, 1993 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. In the environmental statements, the industry is required to provide information on the water and raw material consumption, pollution generated information on hazardous wastes and solid wastes along with disposal practices and also the impact of pollution control measures on conservation of natural resources. The State Pollution Control Boards have been advised to organise training programmes on preparation of the environmental statement for the entrepreneurs.

(c) No particular industry has been identified for the purpose in Uttar Pradesh. As per the notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, all the units located in Uttar Pradesh who seek consent under either the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or authorisation under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 are required to submit environmental statements to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board. These units include the heavily polluting sector viz., Sugar, pharmacutical, cement, fertilizer, pesticide, distillery, pulp and paper, thermal power, dyes and intermediates, petrochemicals, tanneries, caustic soda, oil refinery, zinc smelter, aluminium smelter, coppr smelter and integrated iron and steel.

Review of Pooyamkutty Power Project, Kerala

1606. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to review the previous decision of denying clearance for the Pooyamkutty Power Project in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what is the present stage of the review and by when a final decision on the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The proposal for diversion of forest land for Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala was rejected on merits under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide this Ministry's letter No. 8-76/87-FC dated 31.1.91. Subsequently, on receipt of a formal request for reconsideration of the proposal from the State Government of Kerala, the Central Government has constituted an Experts Committee for site inspection of the project area. The Committee has submitted its report and it is under examination. The decision on the proposal will be taken after completion of examination of the report of the Experts Committee.

Caustic Soda Plant on River Koel, Bihar

1607. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesment of 20th November, 1993 about the human tragedy that is unfolding in the Caustic Soda Plant located on river Koel in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Caustic Soda Plant of BCCP jointly managed by the Bihar Government and the Birlas is